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THE LAW OF TORTS OR PRIVATE WRONGS. By FRANCIS HILLIARD, author of "**The Law of Mortgages**," "**The Law of Vendors and Purchasers**," &c. In two volumes. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1859.

The law of *Torts* is certainly a subject which has much professional importance, and comprises a comprehensive and enlarged field of jurisprudence. The idea of compiling a book on this subject is a new one, and the matter deserves professional consideration. To some extent the books on evidence, *nisi prius*, and pleading, cover this field, but the arrangement of Mr. Hilliard is perhaps more logical and strictly philosophical than any one that is familiar to the profession. "To consider wrongs," says he, "as merely incidental to remedies; to inquire for what injuries a particular action may be brought, instead of explaining the injuries themselves and then asking what action may be brought for their redress, seems to me to reverse the natural order of things; to give a false view of the law as a system of forms rather than principles; to elevate the positive and conventional above the absolute and permanent."

It certainly is not to be denied that this view has force in it, and Mr. Hilliard has expanded his idea in the two handsomely printed volumes before us. The work seems well done, and will not fail to aid the practitioner; but we cannot venture to pronounce a hasty judgment upon labors in some respects quite original. We are sure, however, that a gentleman of Mr. Hilliard's distinguished legal attainments would not present to his fellow laborers any work that did not deserve a careful study and amply repay investigation into its pages.

A LAW DICTIONARY, adapted to the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America and of the several States of the American Union, with references to the civil and other systems of foreign law. By JOHN BOUVIER. Ninth edition, revised, improved, and greatly enlarged. 2 vols. royal 8vo. Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson, 602 Arch street. 1860. pp. 692, 745.

A good law dictionary is one of the books which every lawyer must have. It seems almost useless to do anything more than call attention to the fact of a new edition of so well known a book as Judge Bouvier's. It has been in use in the offices of our brethren for a number of years, and there can now be no question as to its merits. It is continually at the elbow of the student, and his daily studies can scarcely be carried on without reference to its pages. This edition is much enlarged, and thereby greatly improved, and wholly adapted to American jurisprudence. It